

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

PIL No. 26 of 2021

Mr. Naresh Maimom

Petitioner

Vs.

Union Of India; & Ors.

Respondents

**BEFORE
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SANJAY KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KH NOBIN SINGH**

15.06.2021

Sanjay Kumar (C.J.):

[1] Mr. Serto T Kom, learned counsel, appears for the petitioner. Mr. S. Suresh, learned ASG, appears for the Union of India. Mr. Lenin Hijam, learned Additional Advocate General, Manipur, appears for the State authorities, Mr. M. Devananda, learned counsel, appears for RIMS, Imphal.

[2] The additional affidavit dated 14.06.2021 filed by respondent No. 2 and Annexures-A/1 to A/5 filed therewith are taken on record.

[3] Mr. Lenin Hijam, learned Additional Advocate General, Manipur, shall ascertain as to how the data, set out in the documents in Annexure-A/3(Colly), is being disseminated to the public at large, *i.e.*, whether it is through some online medium and if so, the details thereof. He shall also ascertain as to whether any steps have been taken for dissemination of such information, pursuant to the letter dated 10.06.2021 addressed by Ms. H. Rosita, Special Secretary (Health & FW), Government of Manipur, to the Director, IPR, Manipur.

[4] Mr. Serto T. Kom, learned counsel, would point out that the material placed on record along with the aforesaid additional reply bears out that the State Government has addressed letters to the Central Government with regard to its requirement of oxygen cylinders and also oxygen plants. He would further point out

that these letters were sent in April and May, 2021. Mr. S. Suresh, learned ASG, appearing for the Union of India, seeks time to ascertain as to what steps, if any, have been taken by the Central Government after receipt of the aforestated letters and file an additional reply elaborating on the steps so taken.

[5] Mr. Serto T. Kom, learned counsel, would further point out that as per the status report of patients in Covid Hospitals and CHCs/PHCs of Manipur, as on 12.06.2021 [Annexure-A/3(Colly)], there are no ICU beds available in several of the districts in the State of Manipur, such as Tamenglong , Kamjong, Noney, Kangpokpi etc. He would further state that it would be difficult to transport emergency Covid patients from far-flung places to the nearest ICU facility and that the State Government needs to address this aspect.

Mr. Lenin Hljam, learned Additional Advocate General, Manipur, shall get instructions as to whether this issue has already been addressed, and if so, detail the steps taken for alleviating the plight of Covid-19 patients in distant locations who require ICU facilities on an emergency basis.

[6] Mr. M. Devananda, learned counsel, would state that only 30% of the construction for installation of the two oxygen plants sanctioned by the Central Government at RIMS, Imphal, has been completed. Mr. S. Suresh, learned ASG, shall ascertain the steps that would be taken by the Central Government to ensure that these oxygen plants are made operational by the end of June without fail, as undertaken in the Uol's letter dated 22.05.2021.

[7] Mr. M. Devananda, learned counsel, also placed on record copies of the letters addressed by RIMS, Imphal, to the authorities of the Government of India for additional infrastructure. Letter dated 07.06.2021 was addressed by the Deputy Director, RIMS, Imphal, to Ms. Gayatri Mishra, Joint Secretary (NE), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, detailing the manpower requirement and the corresponding financial assistance required in the light of the enhancement of bed capacity in the hospital for Covid-19 patients. Letter dated 10.06.2021 was addressed by the Deputy Director, RIMS, Imphal, to the Director (Estates), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, New Delhi, with regard to the

completion of the civil engineering part of the 2 (two) oxygen plants to be installed and commissioned at RIMS Imphal, by the end of June. Thereby, the Deputy Director requested that the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) should complete the Civil Engineering works and install the PSA plants at RIMS Imphal, in consultation with DRDO, within the specified timeline.

[8] Mr. M. Devananda, learned counsel, would further state that the Central Government is not keeping RIMS, Imphal, informed of developments and that all communications are being addressed to the State Government only.

[9] Mr. S. Suresh, learned ASG, states that all these aspects would be addressed in the additional reply affidavit that would be filed by the next date of hearing. The Central Government shall however ensure that copies of all communications addressed to the State Government in relation to any issue pertaining to RIMS, Imphal, shall also be marked to RIMS, Imphal, for its information and record.

[10] Further, the Central Government shall ensure that the time stipulation as per its letter dated 22.05.2021 is adhered to without fail and the 2(two) new oxygen plants at RIMS, Imphal, are commissioned by the end of June, as promised.

Post on 06.07.2021.

Additional affidavits shall be filed on 05.07.2021, without fail, after service of advance copies to the all the learned counsel appearing in the matter.

A copy of this order shall be supplied online or through whatsapp to all the learned counsel for the parties.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Sandeep